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CONFIDENTIAL

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EXCISE

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TAIWAN/PRC: THE REDS ARE COMING

A Taiwan court yesterday acquitted a PRC Communist party member, who had come to Taiwan surreptitiously, of conspiring to overthrow the island's government, according to press reports. The defendant was cleared on the grounds he had no seditious intent.

Comment: Automatic sedition charges against Communist party members from the mainland have kept PRC visitors to a hardy few, though millions from Taiwan have visited the mainland. The new ruling removes an impediment to increased numbers of PRC visitors. According to a bi-coastal (Taiwan-PRC) relations law now before Taiwan's legislature, self-reporting communists will be allowed entry to Taiwan.

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